

# SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

104th Congress  
1st Session

Vote No. 460

September 22, 1995, 12:17 p.m.  
Page S-14126 Temp. Record

## D.C. APPROPRIATIONS/Tax Cuts & Medicare

**SUBJECT:** District of Columbia Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 1996 . . . S. 1244. Jeffords motion to table the Dorgan amendment No. 2770.

### ACTION: MOTION TO TABLE AGREED TO, 54-43

**SYNOPSIS:** As reported, S. 1254, the District of Columbia Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 1996, will provide the District of Columbia Government with \$712 million in Federal funds (including retirement funds), and will approve the District's \$5.24 billion budget.

**The Dorgan amendment** would express the sense of the Senate that the Finance Committee and the Senate should not approve tax legislation that would reduce taxes for those individuals making over \$101,000 per year, and that the savings from not applying any tax cuts that might be made to such individuals should be used to reduce projected reductions in Medicare spending.

Debate was limited by unanimous consent. Following debate, Senator Jeffords moved to table the Dorgan amendment. Generally, those favoring the motion to table opposed the amendment; those opposing the motion to table favored the amendment.

**Those favoring** the motion to table contended:

We are certain that the sense of the Senate amendment proposed by our colleague does not reflect the views of a majority of Senators. He of course is aware of that fact, and he is well within his rights to offer this amendment, but we do not really see any purpose in making the Senate vote on it. First, all Members are aware that the Medicare trust fund will go broke by the year 2002 if reforms are not enacted. Stop-gap measures to pump in a little extra cash will not get the job done; structural reforms will have to be made. The Administration also is aware of the problem; three of the President's own Cabinet Members who serve as Medicare trustees have said that the program will hit the wall in 2002 if reforms are not enacted. Second, Members are all aware that Republicans have put forward realistic reform proposals, and Democrats have not. Third, it is no secret that most Republicans favor giving tax cuts now, and most Democrats strongly oppose cutting taxes. Republicans are especially desirous of reducing the enormous

(See other side)

YEAS (54)			NAYS (43)		NOT VOTING (3)	
Republicans (52 or 100%)	Democrats (2 or 4%)		Republicans (0 or 0%)	Democrats (43 or 96%)	Republicans (2)	Democrats (1)
Abraham	Hutchison	Lieberman		Akaka	Heflin	
Ashcroft	Inhofe	Moynihan		Baucus	Hollings	Gramm- <sup>2</sup>
Bennett	Jeffords			Biden	Inouye	Santorum- <sup>2</sup>
Bond	Kassebaum			Bingaman	Johnston	
Brown	Kempthorne			Boxer	Kennedy	
Burns	Kyl			Bradley	Kerrey	
Campbell	Lott			Breaux	Kerry	
Chafee	Lugar			Bryan	Kohl	
Coats	Mack			Bumpers	Lautenberg	
Cochran	McCain			Byrd	Leahy	
Cohen	McConnell			Conrad	Levin	
Coverdell	Murkowski			Daschle	Mikulski	
Craig	Nickles			Dodd	Moseley-Braun	
D'Amato	Packwood			Dorgan	Murray	
DeWine	Pressler			Exon	Nunn	
Dole	Roth			Feingold	Pell	
Domenici	Shelby			Feinstein	Reid	
Faircloth	Simpson			Ford	Robb	
Frist	Smith			Glenn	Rockefeller	
Gorton	Snowe			Graham	Sarbanes	
Grams	Specter			Harkin	Simon	
Grassley	Stevens				Wellstone	
Gregg	Thomas					
Hatch	Thompson					
Hatfield	Thurmond					
Helms	Warner					

#### EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

1—Official Business  
2—Necessarily Absent  
3—Illness  
4—Other

#### SYMBOLS:

AY—Announced Yea  
AN—Announced Nay  
PY—Paired Yea  
PN—Paired Nay

tax burden on middle-class families. Those families are reeling under the enormous tax burden that Democrats have put on them over the past 30 years to pay for their social spending boondoggles. Relief is long overdue. Fourth, all Members are aware that Democrats are very anxious to place more taxes on "wealthy" Americans, and at the very least to make sure they do not benefit from tax cuts. Republicans, on the other hand, do not share Democrat's redistributionist, class-envy predilections. Given these facts, every Senator is aware that the Dorgan amendment will be tabled on a nearly party-line vote. We will not prove our colleagues' expectations wrong; we will of course vote in favor of the motion to table.

**Those opposing** the motion to table contended:

The Dorgan amendment has been offered to put Members on record as to where their priorities lie. The Finance Committee will next week consider reconciliation legislation that will likely make deep cuts in Medicare, and, once savings are certified, it will report tax cutting legislation. We do not favor tax cutting legislation until after the budget is balanced. However, we know that the Republican majority is in control and is writing the legislation, and that we Democrats will have little impact on the process. Therefore, rather than trying to block tax cuts, we have proposed that the Finance Committee should design its tax cuts, should then make the wealthy ineligible for those cuts, and then should use the amount that the wealthy would have otherwise received to reduce the proposed Medicare cuts. If our colleagues agree that Medicare is more important than tax cuts for the wealthy they will join us in voting against the motion to table.